

LYNCHBURG CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Item Summary

MEETING DATE: **June 10, 2003**

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 15

CONSENT:

REGULAR: **X**

CLOSED SESSION:

(Confidential)

ACTION: **X**

INFORMATION:

ITEM TITLE: **Amend The City Code Relating To The Billing And Collection Of Water And Sewer Charges.**

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt an ordinance to amend Sections 39-12, 39-13, 39-29, 39-31, and 39-54.2 of the City Code related to the billing and collection of water and sewer charges.

SUMMARY: There follows a summary of the amendments to the City Code:

- Unauthorized use of a hydrant will result in a \$200 fee.
- Obstruction of a water meter will result in a \$30 fee for each subsequent visit to the property to gain access to the water meter.
- Require owner, landlord or property management agent to make application to the Billings and Collections Division-Utility Billing to activate water service.
- Use of unauthorized water meter will result in a \$100 fee.
- Multi-unit accounts will require the billing record be established in the name of the owner, landlord, or property management agent.

PRIOR ACTION(S): May 27, 2003 City Council Work Session

FISCAL IMPACT: Increased Revenues for the Water and Sewer Funds.

CONTACT(S): Donna Witt, Acting Budget Director, 847-1443 ext. 287
Lynn Watson, Utility Billing Supervisor, 847-1320 ext. 227

ATTACHMENT(S): Ordinance Amending the City Code.

REVIEWED BY: lkp

ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REENACT SECTIONS 39-12, 39-13, 39-29, 39-31 AND 39-54.2 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF LYNCHBURG, 1981, THE AMENDED SECTIONS RELATING TO THE BILLING AND COLLECTION OF WATER AND SEWER CHARGES.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LYNCHBURG:

1. That Sections 39-12, 39-13, 39-29, 39-31 and 39-54.2 of the Code of the City of Lynchburg, be, and the same are hereby further amended and reenacted as follows:

Sec. 39-12. Opening or using fire hydrants.

It shall be unlawful and a class 2 misdemeanor for any person, except a member of the fire division or an employee of the department of public works, to open or in any way use the high-pressure fire hydrant, which are painted lime green with a one (1) inch wide black band at the base. It shall be unlawful for any person, except a member of the fire division or an employee of the department of public works, to open or in any manner use any other fire hydrants of the city without the authority of the director of the department of public works. Unauthorized use of a hydrant will result in a two hundred dollar (\$200.00) fee to the owner, developer, contractor, or individual. The billings and collections division-utility billing customer service office of the department of financial services or the utilities division of the department of public works will issue a miscellaneous invoice to the customer for the fee.

Sec. 39-13. Obstructing access to fire hydrants, meters.

It shall be unlawful and a class 3 misdemeanor for any person to place or cause to be placed around or near any of the fire hydrants or water meters of the city any goods or foliage or other thing in such a manner as to obstruct the free access to such hydrants or water meters. The occupant of any real estate for which a water meter has been installed and access is obstructed will be charged a fee of thirty dollars (\$30.00) for each subsequent visit to the property to gain access to the water meter.

Sec. 39-29. Turning water on after connection made within city.

Whenever any individual, commercial or industrial establishment desires the use of water on premises owned or leased by them within the city limits, where all connections have been made in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, they shall make application therefor to the utilities customer service office, accompanying each application with a fee of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) for turning on and/or transferring the account. Multi-unit facilities will require the owner, landlord, or property management agent to make application to the billings and collections division-utility billing customer service office of the department of financial services to activate water at a service address. Whenever any person applying for water service shall have complied with this requirement and his water fixtures are in good condition, the utilities customer service office shall then cause the water to be turned on.

Sec. 39-31. Wrongful connections.

It shall be unlawful for any person to introduce water from the water distribution system into any premises, except as provided in this chapter.

A one hundred dollar (\$100.00) fee will be charged to the occupant or owner of any real estate using an unauthorized water meter connected to the City of Lynchburg water main for the purpose of obtaining water as provided in Section 39-29 and Section 39-29.1.

Sec. 39-54.2. Multi-family or multi-unit accounts.

Where ~~six (6)~~ two (2) or more housing units or commercial units are served by one (1) master meter and one (1) billing account is established, ~~the billing rate for this account, as established by Section 39-54.1 of this code, shall be determined by dividing the billing period consumption according to the master meter by the number of housing units served by the master meter. The applicable rate will then be applied to the per unit consumption and multiplied by the number of housing units to determine the total bill~~ the billing records will be established in the name of the owner, landlord, or property management agent. Existing billing accounts in tenants' names will be changed to the owner, landlord, or property management agent as problems occur and/or upon notification of an occupancy change.

A housing unit shall mean one (1) or more rooms which are intended for occupancy by a family [one (1) or more persons] and which generally includes therein provisions for food preparation.

~~All accounts are subject to the utility tax established in Section 36-187.~~

~~Each customer shall certify to the department of finance, customer service division, the number of housing units served by each master meter by January 1 of each year. These figures shall be subject to review by the utilities customer service office.~~

2. That this ordinance shall become effective on its passage.

Adopted:

Certified:

Clerk of Council

113L